(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to check smuggling of gold?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate quantity and value of gold smuggled in the country during the last year. However, anti-smuggling agencies during the year 1995-96 have seized gold weighing 1052 kg. valued at Rs 50.87 crores while attempted to be smuggled into the country.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Measures taken to prevent smuggling of gold into the country include liberalized import of gold since 1992 under passenger baggage scheme to make large quantities of legally imported gold available for consumption in India, high alert maintained by anti smuggling agencies to detect and prevent smuggling of gold into the country by surveillance over sensitive areas, targeting of intelligence and use of sophisticated equipments like metal detectors, colour bagges X-Ray Machines etc. in ports and airports

[English]

Central Investment in Bihar

1127 SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The Central Investment made in Bihar during the last three years year-wise;

(b) whether the Central Investment in Bihar is declining; and

(c) if so, steps taken to increase said investment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Central Plan investment is made for the country as a whole keeping the national priorities in view. It is neither planned nor accounted State-wise. The net Central Plan assistance to Bihar has however, been increasing year after year in the last three years.

Pending Cases with Tribunals

1128 SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tribunals set up in the past decade has not shown the desired results;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to speed up the justice in Tribunals and to check the delays; and

(d) the number of cases pending in the Tribunals as on date, Tribunal-wise and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

BCCL Project

1129 SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of villagers have been ousted from their native villages as a result of the implementation of BCCL Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) 710 families have been displaced as a result of different coal projects taken up by B.C.C.L.

(b) Details are given below :

Project	No. of families
Block-II OCP	199
Block-IV OCP	70
Akashkinaree	15
Keshalpur	133
Ramkanali	8
Chandore	3
PB Project	60
Katras Project	19
Bhowrah OCP	203
Total	710

(c) All displaced families have been rehabilitated in developed rehabilitation sites

Consumer Goods

1130 SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to lift restrictions on importing consumer goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have convened any meeting of all Commodity Boards to discuss ways and means to strengthen the production base; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No Sir. However the Export and Import Policy is periodically reviewed for effecting such changes as may be necessary from time to time.

(c) and (d) As part of export promotion efforts, meetings with the Commodity Boards are held periodically to discuss ways and means of strengthening and increasing export performance Suggestions received from Commodity-Boards with reference to Policy matters are also considered and implemented from time to time.

Industries in J&K

1131. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in Kashmir Valley for setting up of small scale industries and bigger projects for the generation of employment

(b) the number of industries which have been set up and started working during the last three years in the private and public sector and

(c) the details of industries given subsidy such as industries subsidy, transport subsidy and any other subsidy to generate the industries in Jammu and Kashmir for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) During the last three years the SSI units which have been set up in J & K started working in the State are as under :-

	Private Sector
1993-94	1105 units
1994-95	1085 units
1995-96	1156 units

Two units have been set up in medium-large scale in private sector. No units is reported to have come up during the last three years in the public sector

(c) During the last three years the total amount of subsidy released in favour of SSI units medium large scale units is as under :-

1993-94	Rs 503.14 lacs
1994-5	Rs 569.51 lacs
1995-96	Rs 833.28 lacs

Out of above Rs 288.54 lacs, Rs 334.79 lacs and Rs.231 lacs constitute transport subsidy for the respective years Rest are other subsidy given by the State.

Cotton Stock

1132. SHRI SANAT MEHTA
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of liberal export quota given by the Government for cotton, cotton growers have not been able to dispose of their cotton in the market.

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the huge unsold cotton stock lying with farmers, particularly of short staple varieties, and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to help such cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c). The Cotton Advisory Board in its meeting held on 17.6.96 has estimated the 1995-96 cotton crops size to be 149 lakh bales Out of this, about 148.38 lakh bales are already reported to have arrived in the market as on 11.7.96

Government have so far released 13.65 lakh bales of cotton for export keeping in view the interests of the cotton growers and consumers

Rural Credit System

1133. SHRI JAG MOHAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the incidence of over dues in the rural credit system has been increasing over the years;

(b) if so, whether the aforesaid trend has eroded the financial soundness of the system, and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the incidence of overdues in the rural credit system which had increased steeply in 1990-91 has shown a significant declining trend However, even the existing level of overdues are a matter of concern since they affect the soundness of the credit delivery system.

(c) NABARD has further reported that steps have been taken to improve the recovery performance of the rural credit institutions. These, inter-alia, include :

(i) Banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to strengthen their organisational set up and establish separate recovery cells;

(ii) Legislations have been enacted in 16 States so far on the basis of model bill evolved by